

SACRAMENTO RIVER
CONSERVATION AREA

c/o California Department of Water Resources
2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, Ca. 96080



Website: www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov

SRCA NOTES

SEPTEMBER, 2001

❖ Project Activities and Updates

The Nature Conservancy has developed six CALFED proposals for submission in late September. The proposals will address subreach planning above Colusa, acquisition in Tehama and Butte Counties, restoration in Glenn and Butte Counties between Hamilton City and Ord Bend, developing a tool to evaluate balances between “environmental river flows” and other water needs, and adaptive management/monitoring. TNC presented proposal summaries to the TAC and the SRCA board meetings in August. TNC is working with SRCA stakeholders and Board members to insure that each proposal is consistent with SRCA principles and guidelines. SRCA will be a joint venture applicant with TNC on the subreach planning proposal above Colusa.

The Sacramento River Partners are currently working on three CALFED grant proposals. The projects are (1) partnering with Department of Water Resources to create and manage a restoration plan focusing on native grasses and native plants suitable for flood management for 350 acres of DWR land on the south side of Golden State Island (Butte County) (2) partnering with US Fish and Wildlife Service to restore 131 acres of refuge land (Glenn County – Drum Heller Slough) and (3) Riparian Sanctuary restoration study – partnering with US Fish and Wildlife Service to identify issues regarding restoration options, study site specific baseline information, develop restoration options, conduct hydrologic assessments and design a unit plan for approximately 450 acres on the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge.

M&T/Llano Seco - A meeting was held on August 14th to discuss possible funding solutions for dredging the gravel bar. Plans are being developed and costs determined to bring the bar back to the 1995 configuration. The final draft report from Stillwater Sciences is on our website, www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov.

Hamilton City – The agreement with DWR and TNC is close to finalization; this agreement will provide funds for acquisition and local match needs. At an August 13th meeting, the “local” levee alignment alternatives were presented and public comment was invited. TNC presented the 2 dimensional hydraulic modeling for the Hamilton City sub-reach. A “Levee Festival” will be held October 14th in Hamilton City.

Bloody Island – BLM has indicated that the second phase will probably start soon; this will include some further easements and acquisitions, and starting the Management Planning process.

August 16th TAC Meeting – Discussion Items:

***Handbook Amendment Recommendations** –Les Heringer, M&T, discussed the evolution of the language he had proposed, why it happened the way it did. After discussion, and concerns noted by Paul Ward and John Merz as to process, the TAC agreed moving forward to the Board with the following recommendations: (1) most appropriate placement of the new language was at the end of the section, Inner River Zone Guidelines (IRZG), Chapter 1, Page 6 as a new paragraph rather than in the Reach 3 IRZG and (2) the glossary item referencing the SRCA be changed by deleting the last part of the definition, the proposed new language be rescinded, and the Board direct the TAC to continue discussions of a definition for the area between the IRZ and the outer boundary of the Conservation Area.

***CALFED Proposal Presentations:** Mike Roberts, TNC, gave an overview of their proposals - the Colusa Sub-Reach; acquisition proposals in Butte and Tehama Counties; restoration proposal for parcels in Hamilton City area; a monitoring proposal to evaluate ecosystem response to restoration efforts; and Identifying balance of water needs. Lewis Bair, RD 108, discussed their proposal which would consolidate three pumping facilities into one. Stacy Cepello, DWR, discussed two proposals, one to stabilize 70 acres south of Murphy Slough and the other involving start-up of the Sacramento River Science Program.

***Managers Report** – Burt Bundy updated the group on the M&T/Llano Seco Pumps and Bloody Island. The Landowner Assurances Committee met in July and August to discuss scope, objectives and deliverables. The PILT/Economic Impacts Committee met on August 17th and will be looking at possible solutions for PILT and economic impacts of land conversion.

August 23rd SRCA Board Meeting – Discussion Items:

***Conflict of Interest Issue** – The Board determined any further conflict of interest questions involving Burt Bundy should be addressed to The Board of Reclamation; conflict does not exist in his role as non-voting Manager of the SRCA.

***Manager’s Report** – Burt Bundy gave an update on the M&T/Llano Seco Pumps, Hamilton City and Bloody Island.

***Board Committee Reports** – Chairman Ben Carter gave an overview of the Executive Committee meeting. They will review the Annual Report that will be presented to the Advisory Council on September 17th. They also recommended the new language proposed by Les Heringer be incorporated into the IRZG section rather than at the end. Dan Keppen, TAC Chair, informed the group the bulk of the TAC August TAC meeting was devoted to discussion on the proposed Handbook amendments. The Landowners Assurances Committee met and discussed the Good Neighbor policy in more detail. The next meeting will be October 11th at 4:00 at the Colusa County Fairgrounds. The PILT/Economic Committee met on August 17th and discussed the scope and objectives of the Committee – next meeting will be September 14th.

***Handbook Amendments** – The Board accepted the new location of Les Heringer’s language and the change to the conservation area language as recommended by the TAC and Executive Committee.

***CALFED Proposals** – The Nature Conservancy, Sacramento River Partners, and M&T/Llano Seco provided a brief outline of their proposals to the Board.

***Agency Reports** – Lt. Col. Robert O’Brien and Field Supervisor Wayne White discussed the non-jeopardy opinion for RM 149, a site of approximately 770 LF of eroded bank-line. They are looking at completion of the work this year.

➤ **Frequently Asked Questions:**

Q Why has there been a dramatic increase in both sediment and debris in the River recently?

A Debris and sediment occur in the River episodically. Most of the time there is very little sediment and debris moving at all. The general rule is that 95 percent of the sediment and debris move only during 5 percent of the time. Between 1986 and 1993, California suffered through the worst drought in history. During this time, many riparian trees died and forest fires ravaged many of the tributary watersheds. Because there were no floods, the debris built up. This changed dramatically when a series of flood years between 1994 and 1998 swept accumulated debris from the tributaries and into the river. At the same time, the high flows increased bank erosion, which also resulted in a large increase in debris.

- by Koll Buer, Department of Water Resources, Geologic Investigations Unit.

**The Sacramento River
Conservation Area Board
Members:**

Chair: *Ben Carter, Landowner*

Don Anderson, *Landowner, Sec/Treas.*

Mel Dodgin, *The Resources Agency*

Jane Dolan, *Butte County, Vice Chairman*

Marc Faye, *Landowner*

Bill Borrer,, *Tehama County*

Denny Bungarz, *Glenn County*

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Dan Gover, *Landowner*

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Shirley Lewis, *Landowner*

Lynnel Pollock, *Yolo County*

Dan Silva, *Sutter County*

Doug White, *Colusa County*

Russell Young, *Landowner*

Ex-Officio Members:

Laura Allen, *Bureau of Reclamation*

Dan Castleberry, *Fish and Wildlife Service*

Mark Charlton, *Corps of Engineers*

Diana Jacobs, *Department of Fish and Game*

Pete Rabbon, *The Reclamation Board*

Dwight Russell, *Department of Water Resources*

Burt Bundy, *Manager*
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Northern California Water Facilities & Fisheries Tour October 3-5, 2001. The tour will look at the significance of the Sacramento River to water supply; flood management; implementation of the CALFED program; impacts of mining on water quality; farming in the Sacramento Valley; groundwater, water marketing, and area-of-origin water rights; restoration of the endangered winter-run Chinook salmon and other issues. The tour is co-sponsored by the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. **The State of the Sacramento River Conference**, November 17-18, 2001, Red Bluff Community Center, Red Bluff, Ca. presented by the Sacramento River Preservation Trust.....

Future SRCA TAC/Board Meetings:

- **Next TAC meeting** September **19th*, 9:30 a.m., Willows City Hall, Willows**
- **Next SRCA Board meeting** September **27th**, 4:00 p.m., Willows City Hall, Willows

***Please note change in TAC meeting date!!**